

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Re-write the claims as set forth below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (original) A communication circuit operative to update an active link set list in an asynchronous wireless communication system comprising:

candidate reference link determination circuitry operative to receive an active link set update message, and in response, to create a candidate list of reference links based on the active link set list and the received active link set update message.

2. (original) The communication circuit of claim 1 wherein the candidate reference link determination circuitry is operative to create the candidate list of reference links based on at least an indication in the received active link set update message to retain links from the active link set list.

3. (original) The communication circuit of claim 2 wherein the candidate list of reference links includes at least the links to be retained in the active link set list as indicated in the active set update message if the active link set update message indicates the removal of a current reference link from the active link set list.

4. (original) The communication circuit of claim 1 wherein the candidate reference link determination circuitry is operative to update the active link set list based on at least the received active link set update message.

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The communication circuit of claim ~~[[5]]~~24 such that the candidate reference link determination circuitry is operative to maintain the current reference link until the candidate reference link determination circuitry selects the new reference link.

7. (currently amended) The communication circuit of claim ~~[[5]]~~24 such that the candidate reference link determination circuitry is operative to add the new reference link to the active link set list before removal of the current reference link from the active link set list unless the active link set list is full.

8. (currently amended) The communication circuit of claim ~~[[5]]~~24 wherein the active link set update message includes at least one of: an indication of a link addition and an indication of a link deletion, and wherein the candidate reference link determination circuitry selects only one new reference link in response to the received active link set update message.

9. (original) A wireless device operative to update an active link set list in an asynchronous wireless communication system comprising:

a transceiver operative to receive an active link set update message;

candidate reference link determination circuitry, operatively coupled to the transceiver, and operative to receive the active link set update message, and in response, to create a candidate list of reference links based on the active link set list and the received active link set update message; and

memory, operatively coupled to the candidate reference link determination circuitry, and operative to store the candidate list of reference links.

10. (original) The wireless device of claim 9 wherein the candidate reference link determination circuitry is operative to create the candidate list of reference links based on at least an indication in the received active link set update message to retain links from the active link set list, and wherein the memory contains the candidate list of reference links.

11. (original) The wireless device of claim 10 wherein the candidate list of reference links includes at least the links to be retained in the active link set list if the active link set update message indicates the removal of a current reference link from the active link set list.

12. (original) A wireless device operative to update an active link set list in an asynchronous wireless communication system comprising:

a transceiver operative to receive an active link set update message;

candidate reference link determination circuitry, operatively coupled to the transceiver, and operative to receive the active link set update message, and in response, to create a list of links to be removed from the active link set list and a list of links not to be removed from the active link set list in response to the received active link set update message, and to create a candidate list of reference links to include at least the list of links to be retained from the active link set list, but not the list of links to be removed from the active link set list, such that the candidate reference link determination circuitry is operative to select a new reference link from the candidate list of reference links, if the received active link set update message indicates the removal of a current reference link from the active link set list; and

memory, operatively coupled to the candidate reference link determination circuitry, and operative to store the candidate list of reference links.

13. (original) The wireless device of claim 12 such that the candidate reference link determination circuitry is operative to maintain the current reference link until the candidate reference link determination circuitry selects the new reference link.

14. (original) A method for updating an active link set list in an asynchronous wireless communication system, the method comprising:

receiving an active link set update message; and

creating a candidate list of reference links based on the active link set update message and the active link set list.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein creating the candidate list of reference links further includes creating a list of links to be retained from the active link set list.

16. (original) The method of claim 14, further including updating the active link set list based on at least the received active link set update message.

17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[17]]~~25, such that selecting a new reference link includes maintaining a current reference link until the new reference link is selected.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[17]]~~25, wherein creating the candidate list of reference links includes adding the new reference link to the active link set list before removing the current reference link from the active link set list unless the active link set list is full.

20. (original) A method for updating an active link set list in an asynchronous wireless communication system, the method comprising:

receiving an active link set update message;

creating a list of links to be removed from the active link set list and a list of links to be retained from the active link set list in response to the received active link set update message;

creating a candidate list of reference links including the list of links to be retained from the active link set list but not the list of links to be removed from the active link set list if the received active link set update message indicates the removal of a reference link from the active link set list; and

selecting a new reference link from the candidate list of reference links based on at least one of a signal strength measurement, a quality indication, an indication of a distance to a base station, an aging indication associated with each of the candidate list of reference links, and an indication of a timing offset.

21. (original) The method of claim 20 wherein creating the candidate list of reference links includes adding the new reference link to the active link set list before removing the current reference link from the active link set list unless the active link set list is full.

22. (original) Memory comprising instructions executable by one or more processing devices that cause the one or more processing devices to:

receive an active link set update message; and

create a candidate list of reference links based on the active link set update message and the active link set list.

23. (original) The memory of claim 22 comprising instructions that cause the one or more processing devices to create at least one of: a list of links to be removed from the active link set list, and a list of links to be retained from the active link set list, in response to the received active link set update message.

24. (new) A communication circuit operative to update an active link set list in an asynchronous wireless communication system comprising:

candidate reference link determination circuitry operative to receive an active link set update message, and in response, to create a candidate list of reference links based on the active link set list and the received active link set update message; and

wherein the candidate reference link determination circuitry is operative to select a new reference link from the candidate list of reference links based on at least one of: a signal strength measurement, a quality indication, an indication of a distance to a base station, an aging indication associated with each of the candidate list of reference links, and an indication of a timing offset, if the active link set update message indicates the removal of a current reference link from the active link set list.

25. (new) A method for updating an active link set list in an asynchronous wireless communication system, the method comprising:

receiving an active link set update message;

creating a candidate list of reference links based on the active link set update message and the active link set list; and

selecting a new reference link from the candidate list of reference links based on at least one of: a signal strength measurement, a quality indication, an indication of a distance to a base station, an aging indication associated with each of the candidate list of reference links, and an indication of a timing offset if the active link set update message indicates the removal of a current reference link from the active link set list.